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} HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES {

REPORT
No. 2305

LEOPOLD LAUFER AND ELFRIEDE LAUFER

JUNE 25, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. WILSON of Texas, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7850]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7850) for the relief of Leopold Laufer and Elfriede Laufer, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to facilitate the admission into the United States of two minor Austrian children to be adopted by citizens of the United States.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Widnall, the author of this bill, submitted the following statement in support of his bill:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., June 24, 1952.

Re H. R. 7850 for the relief of Leopold Laufer and Elfriede Laufer.

To the Subcommittee on Immigration:

I urgently request favorable consideration of H. R. 7850 for the relief of Leopold and Elfriede Laufer, orphaned children currently residing in the Orphan Home of the Catholic Charities of Vienna and sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Adam G. Roth, of Pleasant Grove, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Roth adopted the two younger children of this family and they were admitted under the Displaced Persons Act. But Leopold and Elfriede were just a little too old to qualify under the act. The mother of these children died in 1949 and the father in 1951.

The Roth's are anxious to keep the four children together and a favorable decision in behalf of the two older children mentioned in H. R. 7850 would accomplish this.

Mr. and Mrs. Roth are willing to have the children brought to the United States at their expense in order to adopt them.

WILLIAM B. WIDNALL.

In addition, Mr. Widnall submitted the following memorandum and letters which contain the pertinent facts in this case:

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN BEHALF OF THE WAR ORPHANS ELFRIEDE LAUFER AND LEOPOLD LAUFER

Elfriede Laufer, born July 2, 1939, in Vienna, Austria, as the legitimate daughter of Karl Laufer and of Maria Laufer, nee Berczkovits, of Vienna, Austria, at the present time living in the Orphan Home of the Catholic Charities of Vienna, Wien 18, Lacknergasse 98.

Her brother, Leopold Peter Laufer, a legitimate child of the same father and mother, born August 10, 1941, in Vienna, Austria, is living at the present time in the Orphan Home of the Catholic Charities of Vienna, Wien 16, Rückertg. 5-7.

The father of these children, Karl Laufer, a former employee of the city of Vienna, died July 26, 1951, in Vienna, from heart disease and other complications.

The mother, Maria Theresia Laufer, nee Berczkovits, died August 1, 1949, from cancer of the gall bladder.

The living expenses in the orphan homes for both children are paid at the present time by their sponsors, Adam George Roth and Germaine Roth (his wife), of Crystal Springs Farm, Pleasant Grove, N. J. Mr. Adam Roth and Mrs. Germaine Roth are willing to have both children brought to the United States at their expense in order to adopt them.

The reason for this lies therein that Mr. and Mrs. Roth already have the custody of the other Laufer children, namely, Rudolf Laufer, born January 18, 1944, and Irmtraud Laufer, born February 15, 1947. The minors Rudolf Laufer and Irmtraud Laufer were admitted to the United States, through the War Orphan's Act, No. 2F, and were brought to the States December 21, 1951, by Rev. Henry M. Veith, pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity, 226 Harrison Street, Passaic, N. J., who was appointed by the Austrian State as the legal representative and guardian for the two children till the time of their adoption by Mr. Adam Roth and Mrs. Germaine Roth.

Mr. and Mrs. Roth are also willing to accept the two older Laufer children (brother and sister of Rudolf and Irmtraud) in order to give them a home and eventually to adopt them. Because of the fact that the two children, Elfriede Laufer and Leopold Laufer, have passed the age of 10, the War Orphan's Act has no provision for them to be admitted to this country. For this reason, a special legislation is requested from the honorable Congress of the United States of America.

A favorable decision of the Congress in behalf of the two older Laufer orphans will help—

First. To keep the four children together as a part of one and the same family, whose father and mother unfortunately died.

Second. The future of the two orphans, Elfriede and Leopold Laufer, will be cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Adam Roth, a future which otherwise would be a life of loneliness and separation in an orphans' home.

Third. Mr. and Mrs. Adam Roth, who already take care so generously of the two smaller Laufer children, namely, Rudolf and Irmtraud, will have a valuable assistance in the education of the two little ones, if their sister Elfriede and their brother Leopold will be permitted to join the Laufer children in the Roth family.

The present guardian of Elfriede Laufer and Leopold Laufer, namely, the older sister Hermine (whose address is Vienna II, Untere Donaustrasse No. 39/26, Austria), has already expressed her willingness to release the two children for adoption by the Roth family.

The Guardianship Court of Austria (District Court of the Inner City of Vienna, Vienna, I. Riemergasse 7, Section 1), has also given the assurance to Rev. Henry M. Veith that the Austrian State would make the same decision for the two older Laufer children, as it was done for Rudolf and Irmtraud Laufer.

The American visa was secured for Rudolf Laufer and for Irmtraud Laufer through the good offices of the NCWC. For this reason the two children are supervised till adoption through the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Paterson in which district the present home of the children lies.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES,
WAR RELIEF SERVICES, NCWC,
November 30, 1951.

Father VEITH,

At present Vienna, 11 Rudolphsplatz.

DEAR FATHER VEITH: It was good to hear from you by phone, Father, today and I am sorry that the connection was a poor one. However, I will try to explain in my letter what I discussed with you in our phone conversation of today.

Since both Leopold and Elfrieda Laufer are over the age of 10 and are Austrian nationals, we do not have any scheme of emigration at the present time for these children. I discussed this matter with the United States consulate in Frankfurt and they have sent me the routine form for registration for the regular quota of emigration. Now I have sent these forms to Dr. Amiel. Actually I feel that it is better that we register these children under this scheme, even though the possibility of emigration will probably be 1, 2, or 3 years before it can be realized. Perhaps in the meantime some other scheme can be made available, but at this time this is our only alternative, because the number of registrations under the Austrian quota has almost reached its quota. I was urged by the United States consulate to have the registration forms filled out and returned to them before the end of December. I am sorry that at this time we have no other plan for these children, but know you will agree that it is better we follow this plan which is a definite one, rather than hope that some other scheme will be produced.

It was good news to hear that the processing of the younger two Laufer children is coming along well. It is indefinite, Father, when I will be able to again come to Vienna. I hope to be able to come before you leave on December 19; however, with many other urgent referrals on children's cases, it may be impossible for me to get away. I will contact you later and give you definite word.

Father, again may I thank you sincerely for your very splendid assistance for without you the documentation and processing of Imtraud and Rudolph would have been delayed.

Sincerely and gratefully,

MARY J. McHUGH, *Children's Services.*

PASSAIC, N. J., January 21, 1952.

Hon. WILLIAM B. WIDNALL,

Hackensack, N. J.

MY DEAR CONGRESSMAN WIDNALL: I represent Mr. and Mrs. Adam Roth, of Glen Rock, N. J. During the month of December 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Roth brought two children to this country from Vienna, Austria. The two children are brother and sister, under the age of 10 years, and because of their age they did not come within the immigration quota. There are two other children, above the age of 10 years, to wit, 11 and 12 years of age, also brother and sister of the two children who are now here. The two older children are in Vienna, Austria, and Mr. and Mrs. Roth are desirous of bringing them here for the purpose of adopting them together with the two children already here, so that the complete family of brothers and sisters can be adopted.

Some time ago I had the occasion to talk to Congressman Canfield, and he together with someone else in the Immigration Office in Washington, D. C., suggested that if we did bring the two younger children to this country, which has already been done, a special bill could be passed in Congress to bring the older brother and sister to this country, so that they would not come within the provisions of the immigration quota. The two children now in Austria are being provided for by Mr. and Mrs. Roth.

The Rev. Henry Veith, of Holy Trinity Church, Passaic, N. J., went to Vienna in December and brought the two youngest children to this country. They are now in the custody of Mr. and Mrs. Roth, and they will adopt them as soon as the legal requirements are met.

Would you please be kind enough to arrange for an appointment with Reverend Veith and myself, so that we may discuss the possibility of having a special bill passed to bring the two children, now in Austria, to this country. The reason why Congressman Canfield referred us to you is because Mr. and Mrs. Roth

reside in Glen Rock and have a farm in Hunterdon County, which district you represent.

If you desire to see us in Washington, I should be glad if you will set the time and place for the appointment so that we can get started on this matter. If it is more convenient for you at your Hackensack office, please let me know.

With kind personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL ANDRUS.

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the Committee is of the opinion that H. R. 7850 should be enacted and accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

